

Saugerties Small Business Owner Turned Undercover Informant Risked Life to Help Rout Out Organized Crime in Hudson Valley

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today received notice that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has granted a one year stay to Emilio Maya, a Saugerties, New York small business owner turned undercover informant, who was set to be deported in one week. ICE cited Hinchey's introduction of a private bill to protect Maya as the reason for its decision to grant a second one year stay.

"I'm pleased that ICE has recognized that this case deserves special attention," said Hinchey. "Emilio Maya is a small business owner who risked his life by going undercover to help stop illegal drug and gang activity that threatens our community. He deserves legal status as he was promised - not deportation. This one year stay is a step in the right direction, but I'm hopeful that a more permanent agreement will be reached."

Emilio Maya and his sister Analia own and operate the Tango Cafe in Saugerties where they have lived since the 1990s. From 2005 to 2009, they worked as undercover informants for ICE in exchange for a guarantee of legal status. After infiltrating drug dealing, prostitution and human trafficking rings on behalf of ICE, the two were scheduled for deportation and Emilio was arrested.

Upon Hinchey's introduction of a private bill in the 111th Congress last February, DHS officials granted a year long stay to Maya. Analia is able to use her marriage to an American Citizen as grounds to remain in the country. Emilio, however, was recently ordered to report for deportation proceedings, prompting Hinchey to reintroduce a private bill aimed at continuing a stay of deportation. A letter from ICE, indicating that a second year long stay has been granted is attached.

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